

Best Management Practices

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



Pondberry

Lindera melissifolia

Common name • Pondberry

Scientific name • *Lindera melissifolia*

Federal status • Endangered

State status • Endangered

Ecology

Pondberry, also referred to as Southern spicebush, is a moderate-sized shrub found in swampy, sandy depressions of lowland forests. In order to thrive, this plant requires poorly drained sandy soils in heavily shaded areas. Pondberry produces blooms from March to early April before its leaves emerge. It is able to produce new plants either vegetatively, by sending out rhizomes, or by the production of seeds in late summer. Currently only one known population occurs in the state in southeastern Ripley County. It also occurs in adjacent northern Arkansas and in several other southeastern states.

Reasons for Decline

Pondberry populations declined as a result of the clearing of bottomland forests and the drainage of wetlands for agricultural use. The seasonally inundated sandy swales where it occurs in Missouri are particularly subject to alterations of the local water table.

Specific Recommendations

- Survey for this species prior to altering wooded swales or bottomland forests in southeastern Ripley Co.
- Maintain water quality and water table levels in southeastern Ripley Co.
- Avoid herbicide use at any known site.
- Avoid logging at any known site.

Information Contacts

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Disclaimer

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